d) transmitting the stored ~~data~~ **module identification information** of the modules to the central unit,

e) restoring the interrupted contact, and

f) comparing the ~~data~~ **module identification information** that were transmitted before the contact was interrupted with the ~~data~~ **module identification information** that were transmitted after interruption of the contact and determining the topology of the modular analytical system on the basis of the comparison, wherein the method steps c to e are repeated with at least one other module until sufficient information is available from the comparison to calculate the topology.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the ~~data are~~ **module identification information is** stored in a permanent memory.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the contacting between several modules and the central unit has a star-shaped topology and the central unit can discriminate between the arms of the star by specifically interrupting the contacts to the individual arms.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the contacting between a module and the central unit has a linear topology.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the contact between a module and the central unit is interrupted or restored by interrupting or restoring a communication line.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the contact between a module and the central unit is interrupted or restored by interrupting or restoring the power supply.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the topology of the analytical system is displayed graphically on a screen.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein operating instructions are communicated to the user which on the screen are graphically allocated to a module.

25. (currently amended) A modular analytical system comprising:

a central unit which is contacted with several modules, wherein at least two of the modules are connected in series and the modules each comprise a memory to store ~~data~~ **module identification information**,

a switch which can be controlled by a computer unit in such a manner that the contact of a module to the central unit can be interrupted and restored again, wherein the computer unit comprises

a control unit to control the switch,

a memory to register the ~~data~~ **module identification information** of the modules, and

a computing unit to calculate the topology of the analytical system on the basis of a comparison of ~~data~~ **module identification information** that ~~were~~ **was** registered before interrupting ~~a~~ **the** contact between the central unit and ~~a~~ **the** module with ~~data~~ **module identification information** that ~~were~~ **was** registered ~~after interruption of~~ **while** the contact **was interrupted**.

26. (previously presented) The modular analytical system of claim 25 further comprising a CAN-bus.

27. (previously presented) The modular analytical system of claim 25, wherein a TCP/IP is used as the protocol.

28. (currently amended) The modular analytical system of claim 25, wherein the ~~data comprise~~ **module identification information comprises** a type name to identify a module.

29. (previously presented) The modular analytical system of claim 25, wherein the contact between a module and the central unit is via a line.

30. (previously presented) The modular analytical system of claim 29, wherein the modules are supplied with power from the central unit via a line.

31. (previously presented) The modular analytical system of claim 29, wherein the communication between a module and the central unit is via a line.